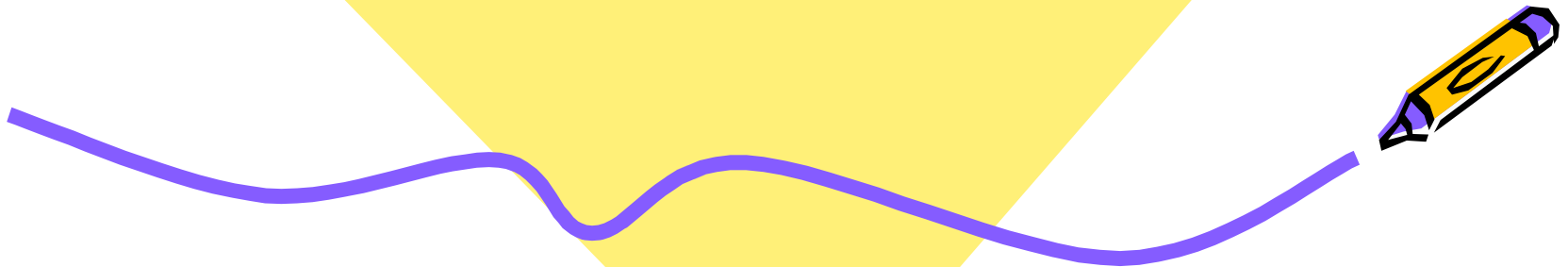




Preliminary Results from FNAL UEC - Visa Survey for Users

Simona Rolli



FNAL UEC - Visa Survey for Users

Dear Fermilab User

In order to facilitate discussion among the national labs and US state departments about the implementation of Department of Energy policies and directives for non-US nationals, we need to collect information about the status and experiences of non-US researchers at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL).

Please help us by filling in the following information with as much detail as you deem necessary. All replies are strictly anonymous.

- The survey was conducted between December 15 and January 15;
- 88 answers
- Some preliminary results



3/1/05

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1a. Country of citizenship



• Western Europe (52)

| | |
|---------------|----|
| – Germany | 18 |
| – UK | 11 |
| – France | 6 |
| – Italy | 3 |
| – Slovakia | 3 |
| – Luxembourg | 2 |
| – Spain | 2 |
| – Belgium | 1 |
| – Denmark | 1 |
| – Greece | 1 |
| – Netherlands | 1 |
| – Austria | 1 |
| – San Marino | 1 |

• Eastern Europe (9)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| – Russia | 6 |
| – Ukraine | 1 |
| – Belarus | 1 |
| – Uskbekistan | 1 |

• Asia (11)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| • China | 4 |
| • Korea | 4 |
| • Hong Kong | 2 |
| • Japan | 1 |

• Other (2)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| • Israel | 1 |
| • Burkina-Faso | 1 |

• Americas (7)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| • Canada | 4 |
| • Mexico | 1 |
| • Argentina | 1 |
| • Brasil | 1 |



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05

2. At which US National Laboratories are you doing research (ie. FNAL, BNL, JLAB, SLAC, ANL, etc.)?

FNAL 84
Other 3

3. Which collaborations or departments are you affiliated with at FNAL (e.g. CDF, D0, Miniboone, E791, Theory, Beams, Computing, etc)

CDF 27
D0 36
Minos 4
Theory 4
Other 15

4b. This visa was obtained through or sponsored by

- ☐ Fermilab
- ☐ Another US national lab
- ☐ US university
- ☐ Foreign university or institution
- ☐ Other (please explain)

FNAL 35
US Universities 24
Foreign Institutions 6
Other 14



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05



6. Have you ever been delayed more than 30 days waiting for visa approval to work at a US user facility?

☐ Yes ☐ No

18 67

6a. If YES, this occurred during the last

☐ 6 months ☐ 12 months ☐ 18 months ☐ 24 months

6b. If YES, this occurred at the following consular post

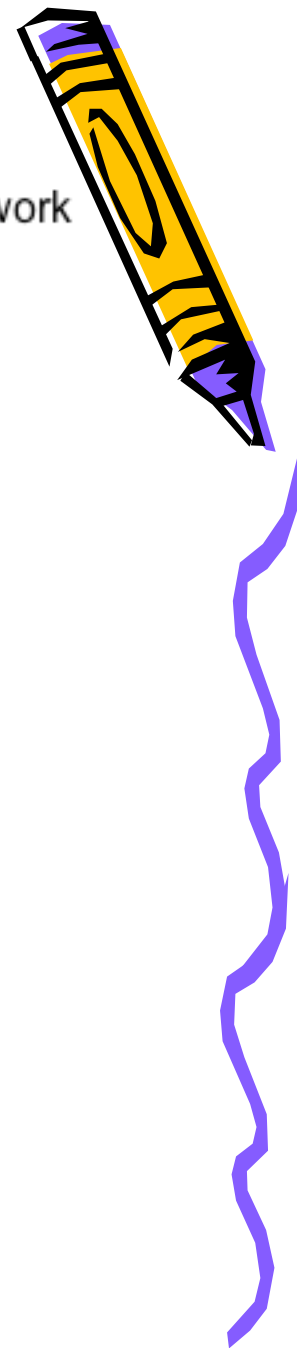
Please provide details

6 months 4
12 months 4
18 months 4
24 months 6



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05





6c. Was your visa request approved or denied?

☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Still being processed

If DENIED, please provide the reason

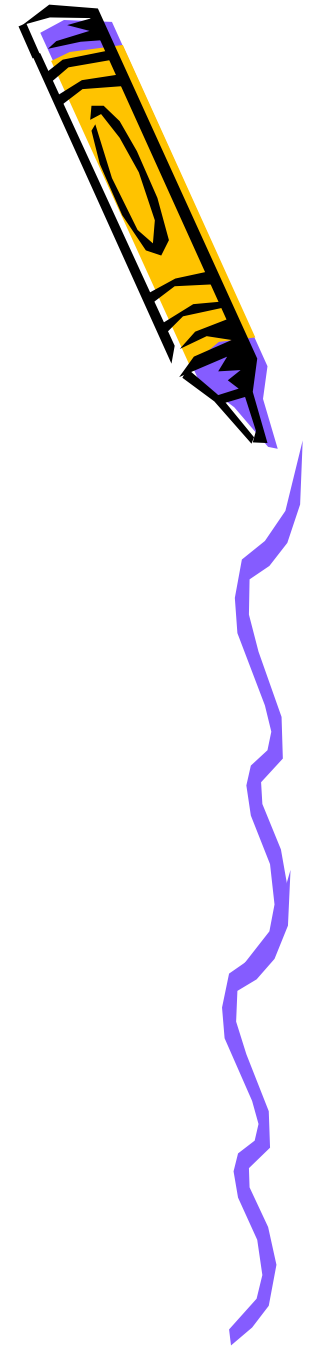
Approved 42
Denied 3

- 1) Immigration intention
- 2) I am a PhD student at Simon Fraser University beginning my study in Fall 2004. On Nov 30, 2004, I was denied in Vancouver. I was told that I must wait until a living of one year in Canada. The visa officer deemed I lived in Canada only for 3 months and need long-term experience in my studying in Canada. In my opinion, my 5 rejections of visa applications in China are a key factor.
- 3) no sufficient ties to Italy, where I applied



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05



6d. What was the impact on your work?

☐ Delayed ☐ Cancelled ☐ Shortened visit ☐ No effect ☐ Other

Please provide details:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Delayed | 14 |
| Cancelled | 1 |
| Shortened Visit | 4 |
| No effect | 9 |
| Other | 2 |



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05

7. I have experienced problems with Immigration officials at my port of entry.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please enter Port(s) of Entry:

If YES, please provide details:

YES 8

NO 69

Sarnia (Port Huron US?)

Chicago 4

NY

Atlanta 2

Minneapolis (MSP)

Frankfurt (Germany)



8. I have experienced difficulty obtaining or been delayed significantly (more than a week) or been refused a Fermilab ID card **specifically** because of my visa status.

☐ Experienced difficulty ☐ Delayed by more than a week ☐ Refused

If you checked any of the above, please provide details:

Difficulties 3



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05

9a. The treatment I have received has or will play a negative role in my wanting to continue research in the US?

☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Has no effect ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly agree

Please explain:

| | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|
| SD | D | NE | A | SA |
| 7 | 5 | 22 | 23 | 9 |

9b. For students: the treatment I have received has or will play a negative role in my wanting to pursue a degree in the US?

☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Has no effect ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly agree

Please explain:

9c. For students and postdocs : Have you been contacted to be recruited at non-US universities and institutions to pursue a degree and/or conduct research at non-US facilities due to current US visa issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please explain:

| | |
|-----|----|
| YES | 7 |
| NO | 39 |



3/1/05

FNAL UEC 03-05-05



9d. For employers : the treatment received by prospective non-us employees has or will play a negative role in my wanting to continue a collaboration in a US facility? (for example, hiring a foreigner to work on a CERN project can be easier than hiring the same person to work at Fermilab)

☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Has no effect ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly agree

Please explain:

| | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|
| SD | D | NE | A | SA |
| 2 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 5 |



3/1/05

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Preliminary Conclusions

- Remarks
 - Little response
 - People are happy
 - People don't care
 - Users are leaving FNAL
- Of the replies:
 - Generally positive experience (not many delays (20%), visa denials (6%), problems at ports of entry (10.3%))
- Somehow strong feelings on continuing doing research in the US if current situation will persist....

More comments on file



3/1/05

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